



**THE
NAVAJO
NATION**

P. O. BOX 9000

• WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515

• (520) 871-6000

KELSEY A. BEGAYE
PRESIDENT

TAYLOR MCKENZIE, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT

CP-6 Clearance
SDMS DOCID # 1148200

October 18, 2002

Vernon Maldonado, AML Program Specialist
Office Of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Suite 1200
505 Marquette Avenue N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Dear Mr. Maldonado,

Please refer to the attached documents as supporting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for the following Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program (NAMLRP) projects: Cameron 6, Bidahochi 1, and Sweetwater 2 AML. The NEPA requirements are part of the Section 401 Permit and 404 Certification process.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Shiprock AML office, 505-368-1224. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Melvin H. Yazzie, Senior Reclamation Specialist
NAMLRP
P.O. Box 3605
Shiprock, NM 87420

Enclosures:

cc: Shiprock AML files w/ attachments
Tuba City AML, attn: Ray Tsingine, Program Manager II w/ attachments
Window Rock AML, attn: Madeline Roanhorse, Department Manager III w/o attachments



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KELSEY A. BEGAYE
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VICE PRESIDENT

June 21, 2002

Mr. Michael J. Fink, MEP
Landscape Ecologist
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Los Angeles District
Water Resources Planning
3636 N. Central Avenue, Suite 740
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-1936

Dear Mr. Fink,

The Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program (NAMLRP), Navajo Nation Department of Natural Resources, is requesting your review and determination on the requirements of a 404 Army Corp of Engineers Permit. Attached for your review is the application and supporting maps and photos of six (6) NAMLRP projects.

Upon our consultant reviewing the requirements of an environmental assessment (EA), he has recommended that we get a determination on the needs of the Section 404 Permit requirements. Please review the supporting documents for this determination. If the determination is that a Section 404 Permit is required, upon evaluating the supporting documents, also take into consideration the possibility of an exemption under one of the following criteria: temporary mining roads, maintenance and/or repair of a stock pond structure.

The 6 projects involve upcoming reclamation projects being performed by our program, which involves reclamation of abandoned uranium mines under the authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The access roads involve crossing of tributaries and the stock ponds involve the maintenance or repair of these structures. There is expected to be very little to no discharge and impact to the water resources.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at the Shiprock AML Program (505) 368-1224.

Sincerely,

Melvin H. Yazzie, Reclamation Specialist III
Shiprock AML Program
P.O. Box 3605
Shiprock, New Mexico 87420

xc: Shiprock AML Project files



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KELSEY A. BEGAYE
PRESIDENT

TAYLOR MCKENZIE, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT

August 30, 2002

Attention: Mr. Jason A. Brush
Environmental Protection Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne St. (WTR-8)
San Francisco, California 94105-3901

Attn: Mr. Jason A. Brush

The Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program (NAMLRP), Navajo Nation Department of Natural Resources, is requesting your review and waiver for a 401 Water Quality Certification. Attached for your review is the supporting documents and justification on six (6) NAMLRP projects that are expected to commence in September of 2002. This is a follow-up request to previous letters dated June 28 and July 29, 2002 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

NAMLRP has been in consultation with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers on the 404 Permit requirements and has received documentation on the impacts. Of the six (6) projects, five (5) are not under the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers jurisdiction, and the remaining project will be issued a Nationwide Permit three (3) for the maintenance of a dike. Further consultation will be required on NA-0175, subject to the 401 Water Quality Certification. Some clarification on project NA-0751, the source of borrow material will be obtained from within the project boundaries, thus this will be out of the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corp for Section 404.

All 6 projects involve upcoming reclamation projects within the State of Arizona being performed by our program, which involves the reclamation of abandoned mines under the authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The projects involve either access roads that will be crossing ephemeral streams or the associated maintenance/repair of a man-made dike. There is expected to be very little to no discharge of overburden material and impacts to the water resources.

If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at the Shiprock AML Program (505) 368-1224 or e-mail at mhyazzie@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,

Melvin H. Yazzie, Reclamation Specialist III
Shiprock AML Program
P.O. Box 3605
Shiprock, New Mexico 87420

XC: Shiprock AML Project Files



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KELSEY A. BEGAYE
PRESIDENT

TAYLOR McKENZIE, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT

July 29, 2002

Attention: Mr. Ron Fowler
Sr. Project Manager
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Los Angeles District
Regulatory Branch, Arizona Section
3636 N. Central Avenue, Suite 760
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-1936

Dear Mr. Fowler,

The Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program (NAMLRP), Navajo Nation Department of Natural Resources, is requesting your review and determination on the requirements of a 404 Army Corp of Engineers Permit. Attached for your further review is the application and supporting maps and photos of three (3) NAMLRP projects (NA0164, NA0175, and NA0751). From our previous consultation, these 3 projects reflect alternative methods.

Please review the supporting documents for the determination on Section 404 Permit requirements, upon evaluating the supporting documents, also take into consideration the possibility of an exemption under one of the following criteria: temporary mining roads, maintenance and/or repair of a stock pond structure.

The 3 projects involve upcoming reclamation projects being performed by our program, which involves reclamation of abandoned uranium mines under the authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The access roads involve crossing of tributaries and the stock ponds involve the maintenance/repair of these structures. There is expected to be very little to no discharge and impact to the water resources.

Thank you for your expedient review of our previous request and assistance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at the Shiprock AML Program (505) 368-1224.

Sincerely,

Melvin H. Yazzie, Reclamation Specialist III
Shiprock AML Program
P.O. Box 3605
Shiprock, New Mexico 87420

xc: Shiprock AML Project files

THE NAVAJO NATION
Division of Natural Resources
Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program (NAMLRP)

Scope of Work for the NAMLRP Projects:

Cameron 6 AML Project - NA0116

This project involves the crossing of an ephemeral stream, the Moenkopi Wash. This access road leads to three (3) NAMLRP projects which are scheduled for reclamation work. The 3 NAMLRP projects are over 0.5 miles away from this crossing area. No upgrading or blading of this crossing will be allowed during the construction activities. Personnel vehicles and heavy equipment will utilize this crossing to gain access to the NAMLRP projects. Very little to no impacts via discharging are expected, thus very little water quality degradation is expected. The total impacted access area is expected to be 300 feet long by 30 feet wide, less than 1/4 acre. Total projected time within this area is estimated at 30 calendar days.

Cameron 6 AML Project - NA-0164 (Alternative 1)

Due to changes being recommended by the U.S. Army Corp, changes to this project have been initiated. This project will be changed to obtain borrow material from within the impacted project boundary, rather than from a man-made stock pond. Approximately 1,000 cubic yards of clay material will be excavated from within the project boundary, project boundary is currently at 10.3 acres. Since the excavation process will be borrowing material, very little to no discharge of material is expected from this operation. This location is over 1.0 mile away from the Little Colorado River. Total projected time within this area is estimated at 45 calendar days.

Cameron 6 AML Project - NA0175 (Alternative 1)

Due to changes being recommended by the U.S. Army Corp, changes to this project have been initiated. This project involves the repair/maintenance of a dike. The man-made dike has breached and no longer holds water. The dike will be repaired with upgradient clay material properly compacted. Borrow material will be excavated to rebuild and expand the dike by 10 feet wide. Approximately 8,000 cubic yards of material will be excavated from the upland project boundary, thus the expected impacted area will be less than 2.0 acres. Since this is an excavation process, very little to no discharge of material is expected from this operation. This area is also located within an area of past NAMLRP projects. The associated tributaries lead into the Little Colorado River, which is over 0.5 mile away to the west. Total projected time within this area is estimated at 30 calendar days.

Bidahochi 1 AML Project - NA0751 (Alternative 1)

Due to changes being recommended by the U.S. Army Corp, changes to this project have been initiated. This project involves the excavation of borrow material from within the project boundaries. Approximately 1,500 cubic yards of clay material will be excavated from this area. The current project boundary is at 2.0 acres. Since the excavation process will be borrowing material, very little to no discharge of material is expected from this operation. This location is within a small tributary that eventually leads into the Pueblo Wash, which is over 1.0 mile away to the west. Total projected time within this area is estimated at 20 calendar days.

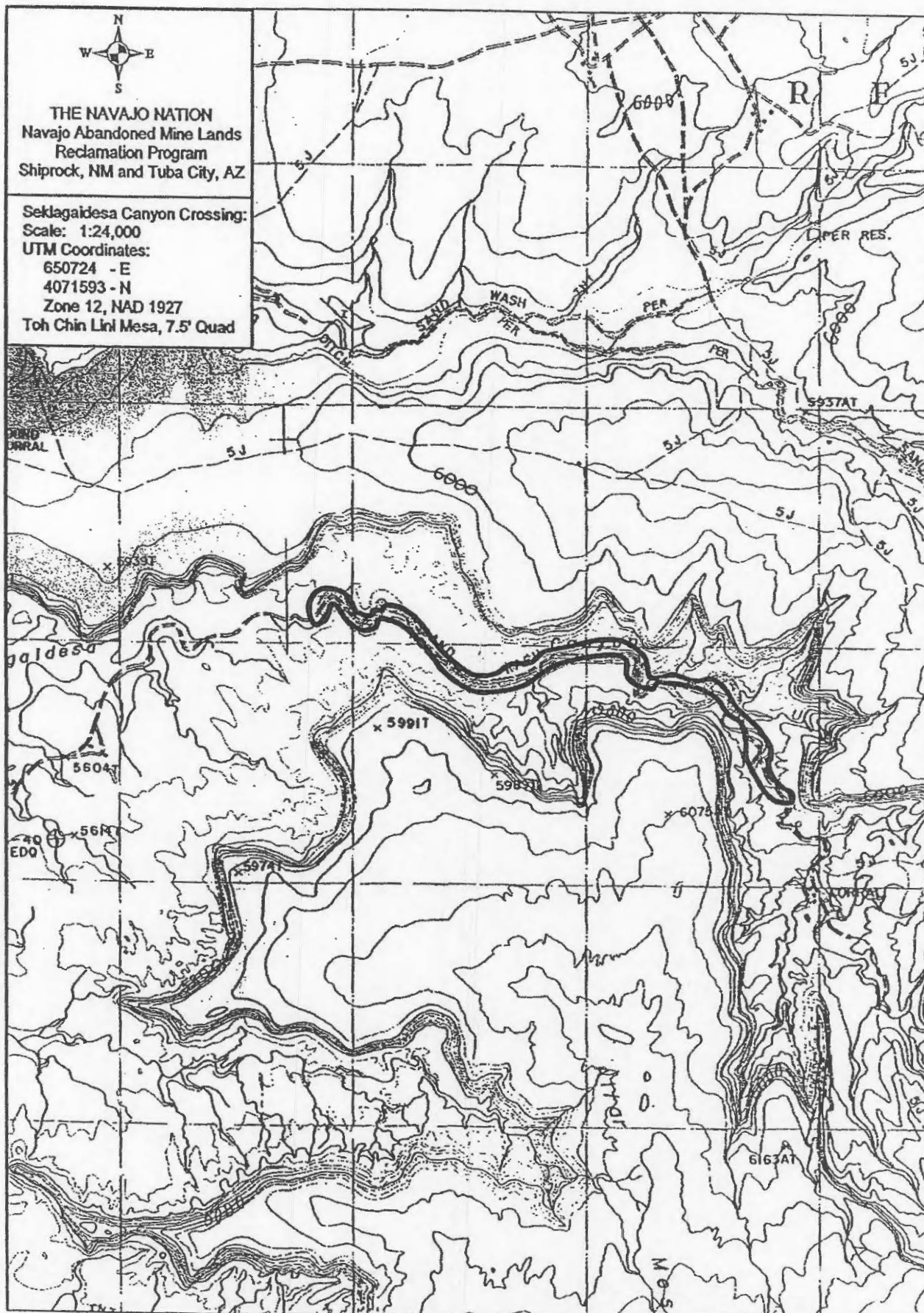
Sweetwater 2 AML Project - NA0504

This project involves the crossing of an ephemeral stream, the Seklagaidesa Canyon. This access road leads to one (1) NAMLRP project. The NAMLRP projects are over 0.5 miles away from this crossing area. No upgrading or blading of this crossing will be allowed during the construction activities. Personnel vehicles and heavy equipment will utilize this crossing to gain access. Very little to no impacts via discharging are expected, thus very little water quality degradation is expected. The total impacted access area is expected to be 6,000 feet long by 10 feet wide, 1.4 acres. Total projected time within this area is estimated at 15 calendar days.

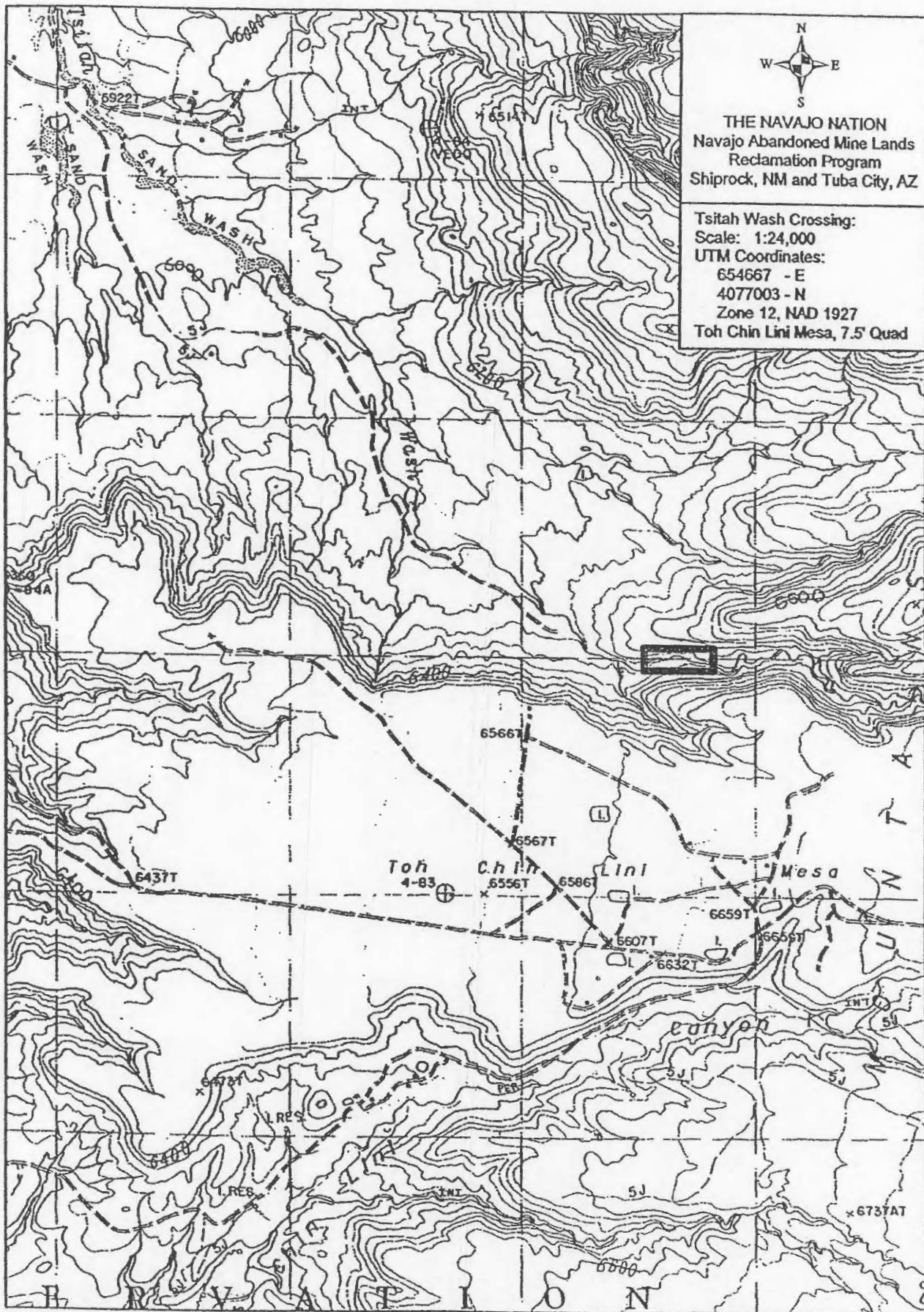
Sweetwater 2 AML Project - NA0518

This project involves an ephemeral stream, the Tsitah Wash. This access road leads to one (1) NAMLRP project. The NAMLRP project is over 0.5 mile away from this stream area. Since this area involves a wetland area, measuring 200 feet long by 30 feet wide (0.1 acre), no upgrading or blading of this area will be allowed during the construction activities. Personnel vehicles will be required to stop at a construction yard located down gradient of this wetland area, approximately 500 feet away. All access to the project site will be via foot. Very little to no impacts via discharging are expected, thus very little water quality degradation is expected. Total projected time within this area is estimated at 10 calendar days.

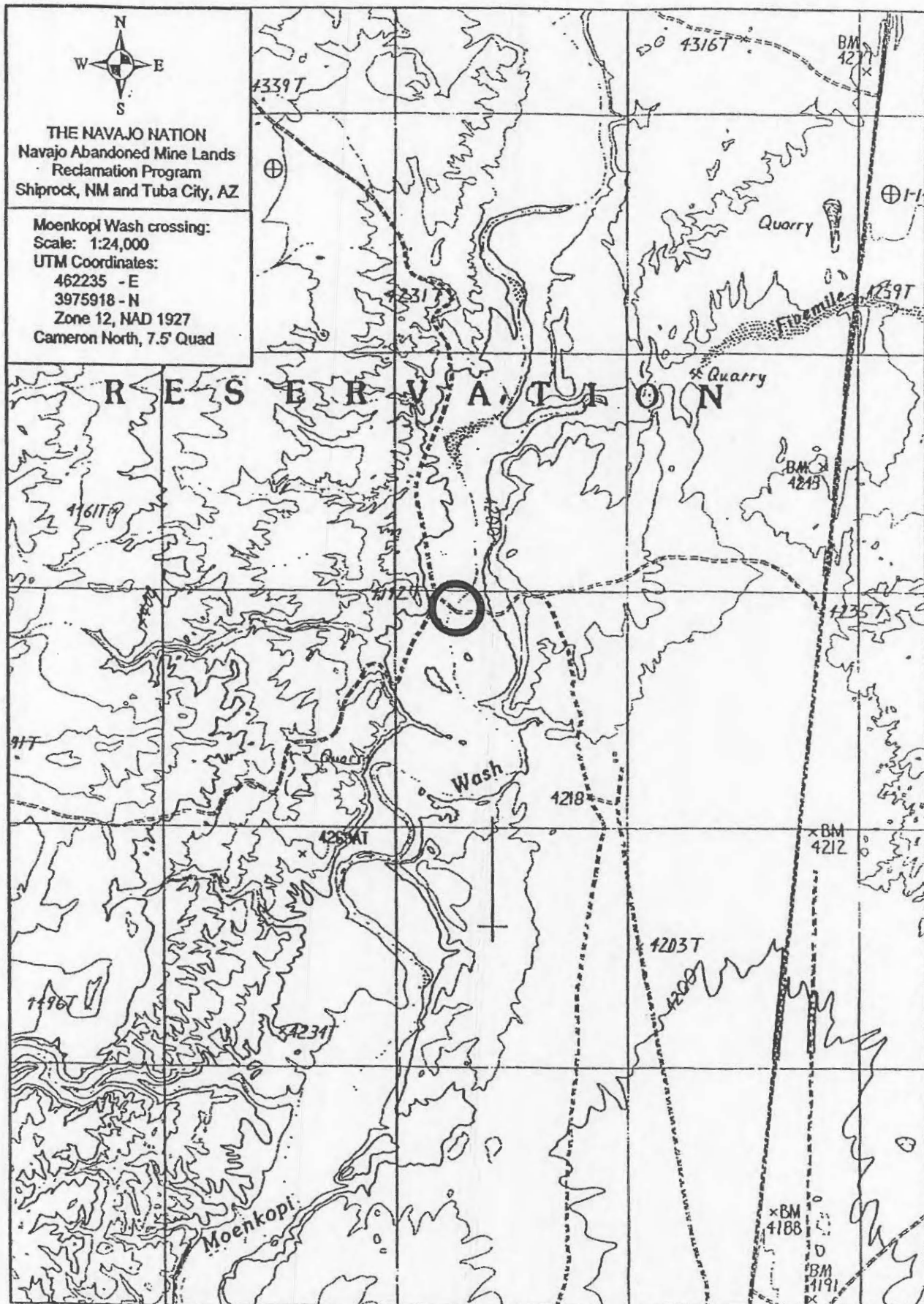
Seldagaidesa Canyon Crossing:
Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Coordinates:
650724 - E
4071593 - N
Zone 12, NAD 1927
Toh Chin Linl Mesa, 7.5' Quad



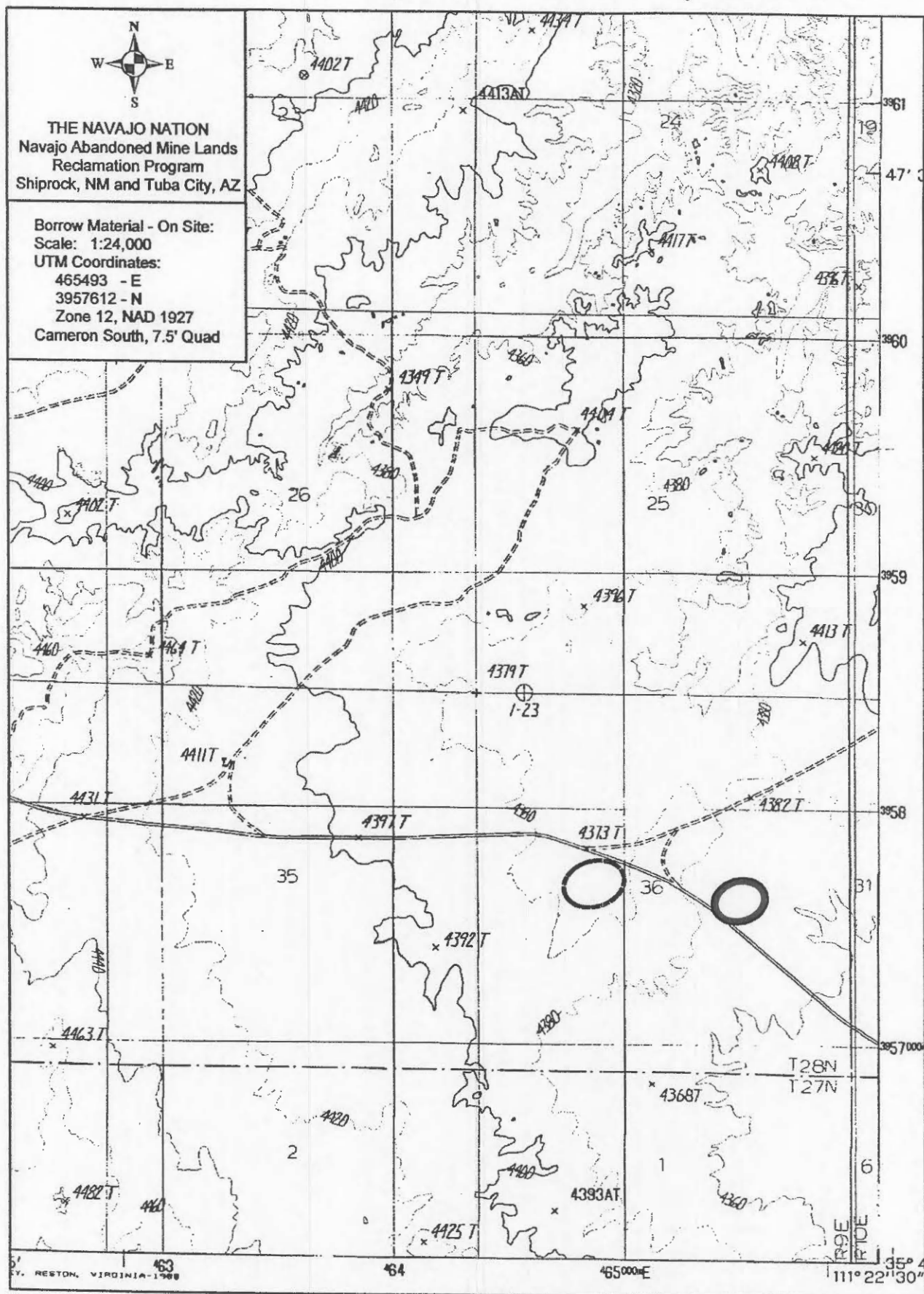
Sweetwater 2 AML Project - NA0518



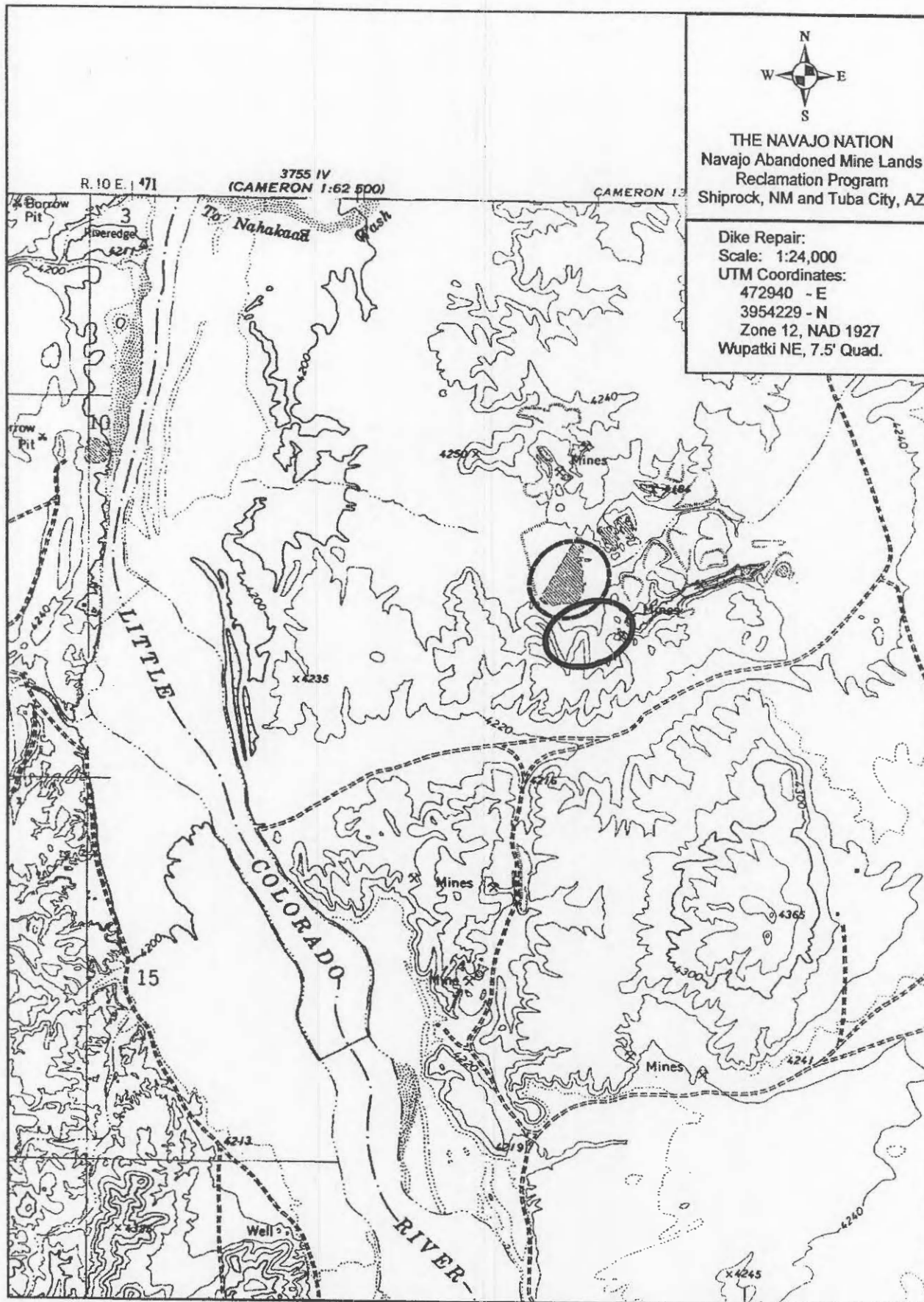
Cameron, b AML Project - NAU116



Cameron 6 AML Project - NA0164 (Alternative 1)



Cameron 6 AML Project - NA0175 (Alternative 1)



Bidahochi 1 AML Project - NA0751 (Alternative 1)

